The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of
The National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXXII — October 26, 1953 — NUMBER 4

1. Weather May Call Turn in Indochina War
2. Hamburg Resumes Role in World of Commerce
3. Gold Rush Memories Keep Yukon Trail Alive
4. Halloween Spooks Date from Ancient Rites
5. Bolivia Upset by Drop in Tin Price

**Three-wheeled, Cycle-pushed Pedicabs Replace Rickshas in Saigon, Indochina's Capital**

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 1)

PAUL ALMASY, THREE LIONS

UMI

cover), is a Paris-like metropolis above the mouth of the Mekong and far from the northern battleground.

**War-weary War Baby**—Though popularly referred to as Indochina, a more precise name for the country is the Associated States of Indochina. The states are Viet Nam, cockpit of the heaviest fighting; Laos; and Cambodia. After almost a century as protectorates, the states became free and independent members of the French Union as the result of political developments stemming from World War II.

Big handicap in fighting the communist threat is the 830-mile stretch of frontier with Red China. It is impossible to guard it with the troops available. More than half of all Indochina is mountainous, and the rugged terrain of the frontier regions is made to order for infiltrating guerrilla columns or supply-running parties.

The proximity of "neutral" China makes it possible for battered enemy units to retire and lick their wounds. It provides a protected training ground for recruits who fill the gaps in their ranks. Even more important, it is a sheltered supply dump for munitions contributed by Red China and other communist-dominated nations.

**Navarre's Paratroopers Strike**—Whether mountain or jungle, the terrain has been a communist asset up to now because it limits the use of tanks and other mechanized equipment. The new commander of the French Union forces, General Henri Navarre, has shown that terrain may not be as reliable an ally as in the past, for he has loosed successful paratroop attacks upon Red strong points, hitherto considered safe.

What is more, he did this during the rainy season when General Weather in the past had immobilized the defending army by turning the countryside into muck. Soon Navarre can count on firm going for his numerically inferior army and its mechanized equipment. Better flying weather will aid his air arm, now being strengthened by combat and transport aircraft from the United States. Reinforcements for his ground troops likewise are reported planned by the French government.

The United States has just promised to double the $400,000,000 previously pledged this year for military aid. This would bring America's contributions to Indochina's cause up to about two billion dollars.

The communists are reported girding for a massive offensive once the monsoon rains cease. Future headlines will indicate which side was able to enlist the assistance of General Weather.

**References**—Indochina is shown on the National Geographic Society's maps of Asia and Adjacent Areas, and The Far East. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see in *The National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1952, "Indochina Faces the Dragon"; "Strife-torn Indochina," October, 1950; and "By Motor Trail Across French Indo-China," October, 1935. *(Issues of The Magazine not more than 12 months old may be obtained by schools and libraries at a specially discounted price of 50¢ a copy. Earlier issues sell for 65¢ a copy through 1946; $1.00, 1930-1945; $2.00, 1912-1929; write for prices of issues prior to 1912.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 11, 1953, "Placid Laos Is Newest Asian Battleground"; and "Indochina Survives Another Summer of War," Oct. 6, 1952.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
COPYRIGHT, 1953, BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
SUBSCRIPTIONS SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR THIRTY WEEKLY ISSUES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

UMI

FRENCH DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

**American Gunboat Patrols Indochina's Noire River**—A converted LCM (landing craft, mechanized) is one item on the two-billion-dollar list of supplies and equipment the U. S. has sent or is sending to support French resistance to Indochina's communist armies.

**Bulletin No. 1, October 26, 1953**

# Weather May Call Turn in Indochina War

WHICH side will "General Weather" fight on in strife-torn Indochina during the months ahead? The heavy monsoon rains that began in May are ending. Both the French Union forces and their communist foes hope the return of better weather will work to their own advantage.

The battle to thwart Red seizure of this tropical land at the southeast corner of Asia has, for eight long years, cost much in life and treasure. Combat damage to fields and communist raids on harvested crops have hit rice-growing areas hard. Normally rice accounted for two-thirds of all exports. The drop in surplus supplies has hurt the countries which depended on Indochina for this Oriental staff of life.

Its leaders know that Indochina possesses more resources for becoming a modern country than any overseas land under the French flag. Although agriculture is now the main occupation, natural wealth includes manganese, coal, tin, iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, and rubber.

On a world map, Indochina looks like a rather small place. Actually, it is bigger than Texas and has 27,000,000 people—nearly four times the population of the Lone Star State. Its capital, Saigon (illustration,

and foodstuffs, and 10,000 workers are employed in the rubber industry.

In the heart of the city, dams on the Alster River have formed two rectangular lakes. Around them rise hotels, office buildings, luxury shops, and restaurants. Boulevards rim the shores.

Among Hamburg's most famous attractions is the Hagenbeck Zoo—the first collection of wild animals to live in a cageless park. Rocky cliffs and deep ditches keep the animals in place; terrain and foliage copy as nearly as possible their home habitats.

Although "hamburgers" were born in Hamburg, the residents of the city prize eel soup as a more representative dish. The hamburger was "invented" by south Germans waiting at the port for ships to America. It attained full fame as an immigrant in the New World.

**References**—Hamburg may be located on the Society's maps of Europe and the Near East, and Central Europe.

See also "Thumbs Up Round the North Sea's Rim," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1952; "Berlin, Island in a Soviet Sea," November, 1951; "With Uncle Sam and John Bull in Germany," January, 1949; "Uncle Sam Bends a Twig in Germany," October, 1948; "What I Saw Across the Rhine," January, 1947; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 8, 1952, "Ancient Bonn Takes on New Role as Capital"; and "Divided Berlin Is a Battleground of Ideas," December 10, 1951.

**Hamburg's Cranes and Derricks Work Again**—Once geared to war production and demolished by Allied bombs, Hamburg's shipyards and factories go into action in the interests of peace. The port is alive with ships from overseas, barges from Europe's inland waterways, and local tugs going about domestic chores. Tug and barge (center) tow away a piece of wreckage. Sign (foreground) marks landing stages.

VOLKMAR WENTZEL

UMI

Bulletin No. 2, October 26, 1953

# Hamburg Resumes Role in World of Commerce

HAMBURG, largest city of the German Federal Republic (West Germany), has risen phoenixlike from the ashes of World War II.

Ships of many nations again dock at the city's rebuilt wharves. Stevedores unload goods from all over the world at reconstructed warehouses. The total net tonnage of ships arriving nears prewar figures. Shipbuilders can't fill all their orders.

At war's end Hamburg harbor was clogged with the wreckage of more than 3,000 ships. Docks, warehouses, bridges, and cranes lay in ruins. More than half the city's 560,000 dwellings were leveled. Today the harbor is clear, more than 6,000 acres of rubble have been removed, and new homes are going up at the rate of 25,000 a year.

**Survives Nearly a Dozen Centuries of Wars**—Charlemagne founded Hamburg in 808 as a fortress to hold off Slavs from the east. Ever since his reign it has known alternate destruction and restoration. With undaunted spirit, the city has revived each time.

Foreign occupation is an old story to Hamburg. In 1806, the city was captured by Napoleon. The French and Russians scrapped over it in 1813. In 1871, Hamburg became part of the new German Empire as a nominally free city-state. In May, 1945, it was captured by British forces. Four years later the city and environs became a federated state of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Before World War II, Hamburg was the largest port on the European continent; only London and New York outranked it in world commercial importance. Located 75 navigable miles up the Elbe River from the North Sea, it is accessible not only to mighty ocean vessels, but also to barges which travel canals and rivers spreading over much of Europe.

The old cliché, "a northern Venice," fits Hamburg only in that the German city is partially built on piles. The water which covers so much of the surface also seeps into the ground on which Hamburg is built. Rows of tall gabled houses, relics of Hamburg's medieval past, still cast their reflections on narrow canals.

The elasticity of its swampy ground may have helped save many of Hamburg's buildings from bomb destruction. The Rathaus (city hall), a 19th century sandstone building, survived. It stands on 8,000 piles.

The almost complete destruction of the commercial sections of the city gave rebuilders an opportunity to introduce modern architectural styles. Parts of Charlemagne's ancient stronghold now appear as startlingly new as the United Nations buildings on Manhattan Island.

**Iron Curtain Hampers Complete Comeback**—In spite of its remarkable comeback, Hamburg's trade is still hampered by the Iron Curtain. To make up for scanty shipping to and from the east, the city has stepped up industries. Production is six per cent greater than it was in 1936. West Germany's largest oil-refining center is there. Hamburg produces 20 per cent of Germany's margarine, 25 per cent of its cigarettes, as well as chemicals, furniture, machinery, and textiles. Its factories process jute

Up Chilkoot Pass and White Pass toiled the men "clean mad for the muck called gold." Many froze hands or feet, were killed in avalanches, or drowned while navigating the Yukon River on makeshift rafts called floating coffins. The historic gold-seekers' trail still grasps the imagination of travelers, and every summer many of them follow the footsteps of the Yukon argonauts. The quiet and peace that pervade the region today, however, hold little suggestion of the feverish boom days.

Skagway, port of entry at the north end of Alaska's Panhandle, was a jumping-off point for Klondikers. A respectable little town of 750 stands where 15,000 stampeders once pitched tents in knee-deep mud. Deserted gingerbread-trimmed buildings tell of a fabulous past. Near-by Dyea, once a rival of Skagway, is just a whisper of its former self.

**"Biggest Little Railroad"**—The direct route to Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory, is the narrow-gauge White Pass and Yukon Railway. It was fondly called the "biggest little railroad in the world" during World War II when it did a heroic job of hauling men and supplies to the Alaska Highway construction project. The railroad was thrown across the divide between 1898 and 1900 at the height of the boom. Conductors enliven the 110-mile run today by telling gullible passengers that snow fences are moose fences, to "keep moose from getting on the tracks and derailing the train."

A modern city of 4,000, Whitehorse is by far the largest community in the Yukon today. The Alaska Highway and a $13,000,000 airport helped it grow and become an important military base.

A sturdy sternwheeler takes adventurous travelers 434 miles down the Yukon River to Dawson in the heart of the Klondike. Forty years ago, 250 steamers plied the river, but only two remain in service.

At Dawson, breakfasters at the Royal Alexandra Hotel pay a much smaller check than miner-customers of a half-century ago who planked down $3 each for eggs.

In boarded-up, sagging buildings lining the warped wooden sidewalk of Front Street, fortunes were lost in an evening. Thirty thousand hopeful adventurers slogged the muddy streets.

Today Dawson's population has dwindled to less than 800. A few prospectors still mine by hand, but for years nearly all mining has been done by giant electric dredges. Where miners once scorned any dirt paying less than 10¢ a pan (two shovelfuls), Klondike ore now yields only 25¢ worth of gold per ton.

For a complete, illustrated account of a well-known adventurer who recently retraced the route to the Klondike, see Amos Burg's article, "Along the Yukon Trail," in the September, 1953, issue of *The National Geographic Magazine*.

**References**—The Yukon Territory is shown on the Society's map of Canada, Alaska & Greenland.

For additional information, see "Alaskan Highway an Engineering Epic," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1943; "Family Afoot in Yukon Wilds," May, 1942; "Exploring Yukon's Glacial Stronghold," June, 1936; and "To-day on 'The Yukon Trail of 1898'," July, 1930.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 10, 1952, "Alaska Highway Traffic Tops Its Own Record"; and "Dawson Out, Whitehorse In as Yukon Capital," April 30, 1951.

WEBSTER & STEVENS

**Not a Ski Slope, But Chilkoot Pass in 1898**—This was the first big hurdle for Klondike-bound gold seekers. The pitch was too steep for dogs; each man had to pack his supplies in relays and then carry his dogs across. Steps hacked in the ice gave footing, but storms, avalanches, and cold took heavy toll. At the summit, the argonauts crossed from Alaska into Canada.

**Bulletin No. 3, October 26, 1953**

# Gold Rush Memories Keep Yukon Trail Alive

"GOLD! Gold! Gold! Sixty-eight Klondikers bring back a ton of gold!"

Newsboys hawked this headline following history's biggest gold strike, the bonanza of July, 1897, in the Canadian Yukon. Thousands of prospectors—amateur as well as professional—rushed north to the Klondike. Boom towns sprang up almost overnight.

as a time for quieting the spirits of the dead. To them it was the end of the year, the beginning of winter. On that night Samhain, Lord of the Dead, supposedly gathered all the souls of those who had been imprisoned in the bodies of animals upon death, and sent them to their final resting places.

**Druids Cast Spells within Magic Circles**—Druid soothsayers of ancient Gaul and Britain recited incantations, standing within rings of gigantic stones. A great circle of these mysterious stones still stands at Stonehenge, near Salisbury, England. The "gypsy" fortuneteller, often a feature of modern Halloween parties, is a somewhat indirect descendant of these prophets of ancient Druid days.

The Celts of Scotland and Ireland gathered on wind-swept hilltops and took part in ceremonies held around huge fires. For many centuries the highlanders of Scotland and Wales lighted Halloween bonfires.

The Druid belief persisted that black cats embodied evil witches. In Europe, until the Middle Ages, the animals were burned on Halloween. Today the person who does not care to have an ebony feline cross his path is unwittingly keeping Druid superstitions alive. True, the black cat has, in most cases, been tamed and now he performs such useful acts as decorating Halloween festivities, or "stopping" doors.

Belief in witches can be traced to the ancient Egyptians, and witches are mentioned in the Old Testament. Strange powers were ascribed to suspected witches and many so accused were harshly punished. Puritan New England was swept by witchcraft hysteria during the 1660's.

Masks have been associated with man's dealings with the spirits, both friendly and evil, since earliest times. The jack-o'-lantern, however, has a double meaning. As a weird and shadow-casting spook, its broad grin points up the eerie activities of "the night of October thirty-first, when ghosts and goblins are at their worst." But also, it is carved from the round golden pumpkin, a symbol of fruitful harvest.

**Roman Harvest Festivals Were Forerunners of Halloween**—Since the days when the Romans held feasts in honor of Pomona, their goddess of fruits and gardens, such fruits of field and orchard as pumpkins, corn (illustration, above), grapes, and apples have been connected with Halloween.

The fanciful folklore of Ireland, from which stems much of America's Halloween gaiety, offers one explanation of the jack-o'-lantern's tie-up with the holiday. It seems that a stingy and ill-tempered man named Jack was barred from heaven for his misdeeds and from hell because of the pranks he had played on the devil. Thus he was condemned eternally to walk the earth, carrying a lighted lantern—a soul without a resting place until the day of judgment.

---

*The following order form may be used (or copied) for requesting the* BULLETINS: School Service Division, National Geographic Society, Washington 6, D. C.

Kindly enter ..... subscriptions to the Geographic School Bulletins, published weekly (30 issues) during the school year. (Subscriptions entered at any date extend to that date the succeeding year.)

Address for sending BULLETINS .....

City ..... State .....

I enclose, for each subscription, 75 cents; total amount .....

A. AUBREY BODINE

**King Corn Is Indians' Contribution to Halloween**—As a decorative symbol of harvest, corn, a legacy from America's first citizens, adorns many a Halloween celebration. American farmers plant more land to corn than to any other crop. It brings in more money and feeds more animals than any other product raised in the United States, plus providing important foods for man. These corn shocks marching up a Maryland hill slope represent a small detachment of America's "tasseled armies of peace."

**Bulletin No. 4, October 26, 1953**

# Halloween Spooks Date from Ancient Rites

HALLOWEEN holds sway across the Christian world both as a children's night of delight and vigil of a holyday dating from medieval times. But the tangled history of this strange holiday extends back many centuries beyond the Christian era and involves beliefs and customs more grim than gay.

When youthful goblins in gargoyle masks rustle through autumn's fallen leaves and bonfires blaze in the dark, centuries fall away to a time of ghastly pagan rites well documented by anthropologists.

Halloween means hallowed or holy evening. It comes the night before November 1, the date established by Christians in the 600's as the Feast of Allhallows or All-Saints' Day. On that day all the Christian saints were honored.

Long before, pagan peoples had observed a similar date in the calendar

**Country with Two Capitals**—Music, dancing, and fireworks provide action and sound during fiestas or carnivals. Women with brightly colored, full skirts stamp and whirl endlessly as they dance with the more somberly dressed men. The more skirts they wear, the greater their prestige.

The Indian farmers, who still speak their own languages and take no part in Bolivia's political and economic life, trace their ancestry back to the Inca Empire. Their civilization was overrun in the 16th century by Pizarro and other Spanish conquerors.

Bolivia is the fifth-largest South American country but one of the most sparsely populated. Yet it has *two* capitals: Sucre, where the Supreme Court meets, is the legal capital of the republic, while La Paz, a city of some 300,000 inhabitants, is the active, administrative seat of government.

**References**—Bolivia is shown on the Society's map of South America.

For further information see "Puya, the Pineapple's Andean Ancestor" and "Sky-High Bolivia" (20 color photographs), in *The National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1950; "Bolivia—Tin Roof of the Andes," March, 1943; "Bolivia, Land of Fiestas," November, 1934 (out of print; refer to your library); and "Heart of Aymará Land," February, 1927.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 4, 1952, "Typical Bolivian Is Farmer, Not Tin Miner."

**The "Irish" Potato Is a South American**—In a field 13,400 feet high near La Paz, Bolivia, an entire community plants potatoes much as in the days of the Incas. Carried back to Europe by early explorers, the potato became especially popular in Ireland. Today, a single world crop is worth more than all the gold the conquerors took from the Incas.

JOSÉ N. PIEROLA

UMI

Bulletin No. 5, October 26, 1953

# Bolivia Upset by Drop in Tin Price

BOLIVIANS may not eat tin, but when the price of that important metal drops, production and exports are reduced and the country suffers economic indigestion.

To meet "urgent relief requirements in a friendly foreign nation," President Eisenhower is sending $5,000,000 worth of surplus food to the South American republic.

More than half of Bolivia's estimated 3,500,000 countrymen are of Indian blood and live on the soil. Farmers in the lower, rich valley areas are more fortunate than those who have to work the land in the high, thin air of the *altiplano* (illustration, below).

**Big Supplier of Tin**—Seventy thousand Bolivian tin miners produce one-fifth of the world's tin, and its sale abroad yields about 70 per cent of their country's foreign exchange (illustration, back cover). There are also large deposits of silver, copper, lead, and zinc; the petroleum industry is growing, and the country ranks high in the mining of antimony and tungsten.

Because Bolivia's principal cities, the bulk of the population, and the most important mining centers are on the bleak 12,000-foot altiplano, Bolivia is often thought of as being all high plateau. This highland, however, accounts for only about a tenth of the country's 424,165 square miles. Three of the hemisphere's loftiest peaks—Sajama, Illimani, and Illampu—rise to more than 22,000 feet in the Bolivian Andes.

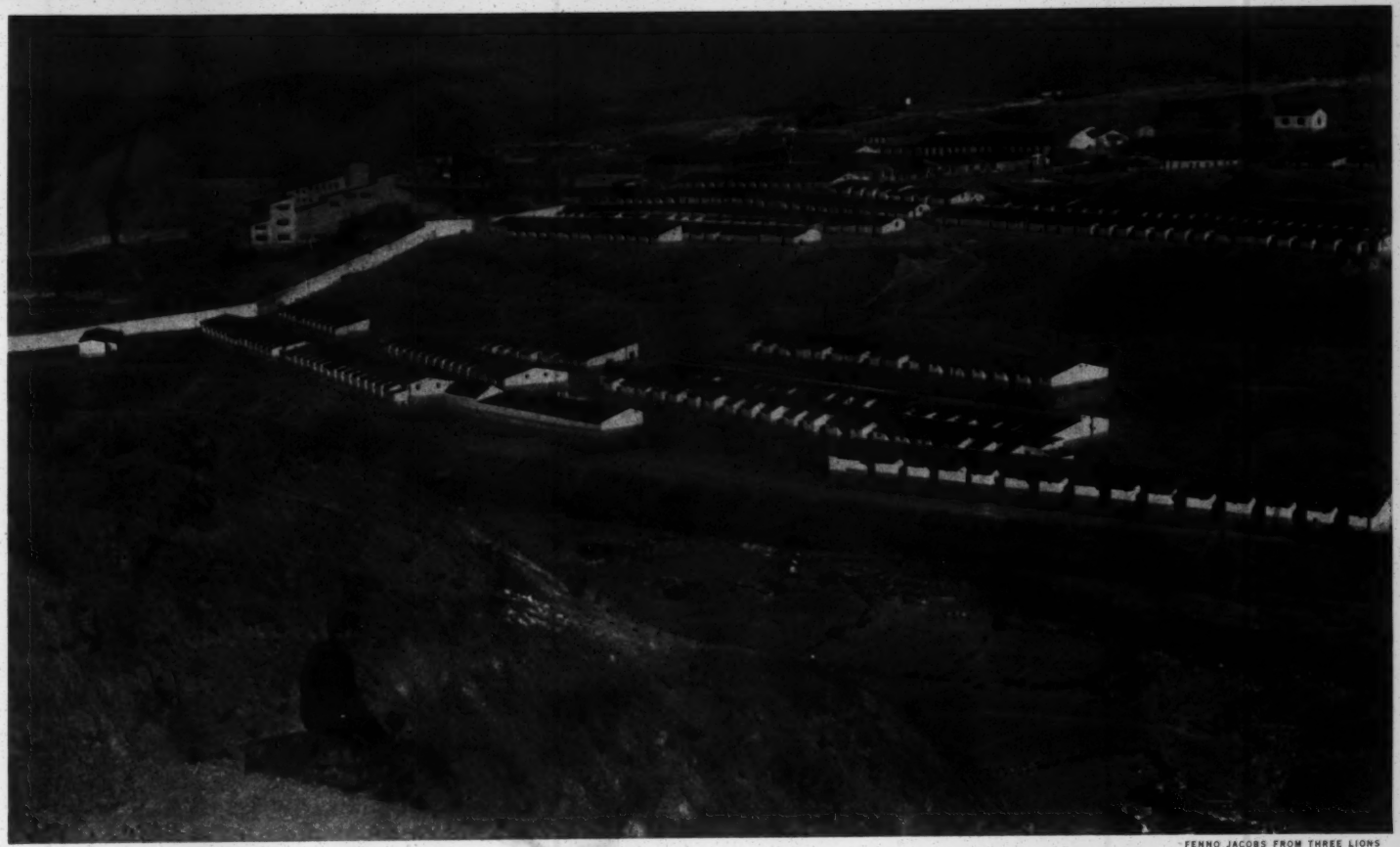
In the north and east thickly forested slopes drain to the warm Amazon basin. In the southeast plains stretch toward Paraguay. Oranges, grapes, bananas, pineapples, and dates grow in the rich central valley area. Fish abound in the streams. Jaguars and ocelots stalk the jungles. Bird life ranges from parrots to flamingos.

**Mahogany-wheeled Oxcarts**—Oxcarts and airplanes; high elevations and rich, low valleys; want and wealth; hard work and gay fiestas are the highlights and shadows of the country.

An airplane taking off from El Alto airport, near La Paz, Bolivia's largest city, has to rise only *two feet* from the runway to be 13,400 feet above sea level. Golfers in this area claim that 300-yard drives are just average in the thin, mountain atmosphere.

Not far distant is Titicaca, the world's highest lake, at an altitude of 12,507 feet. It is about half the size of Lake Ontario. "High-plying" steamers carry freight and passengers between Bolivian and Peruvian ports. At least one of the vessels reached the lake in small pieces after being transported up mountain trails by pack animal. It was then assembled at the shore.

The big lake, navigable rivers, and railways provide the best and quickest surface transportation. Most roads are steep and poor. Oxcarts —many with solid, disk-like wheels of mahogany—provide slow but sure transport. So do the strong backs of Indians, burros, or llamas. In fields, workers guiding crude wooden plows or even using the more primitive foot plow pause to wave at sleek pressurized-cabin air liners.



(SEE BULLETIN NO. 5)

FENNO JACOBS FROM THREE LIONS

**One-fifth of the World's Tin Comes from Mines Such as This, High in the Andes**

The Llallagua, Bolivia, tin mine was developed by Simón Patiño, a clerk who later became "tin king." Waste material dumped at the left forms an artificial mountain. Workers' quarters stand in neat rows to the right of the mill. Tin is used in making solder, babbitt, bronze, and "tin" cans—which are really thin sheets of iron or steel coated with tin.